

Serial No.: 10/673,207
Docket No.: 101-1004
Amendment dated June 30, 2010
Reply to the Office Action of May 24, 2010

REMARKS

Introduction

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that each of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement of October 27, 2005 have been considered.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 43, 45-48, 51, and 57 are pending in the application. Claims 1-42, 44, 49, 50, and 52-56 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 43, 45-48, and 51 have been amended. Claim 57 has been newly added. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claims 43-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,019,869 to Chen (hereinafter, "Chen") in view of U.S. Publication No. 20020021766 to Iwai (hereinafter, "Iwai"). In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

Claim 43

Referring to independent claim 43, in the Office Action dated May 24, 2010, the Examiner alleges that Chen and Iwai in combination with one another disclose all of the limitations recited in independent claim 43. The Examiner alleges on page 3 of the Office Action that Chen discloses:

a control unit (**control unit 140 shown in Fig. 1**) and to control storing of the scanned data (**Col. 6 lines 37-38- thus scanned data is stored using the USB device 481**) the control unit stores the scanned data in the portable storage unit (**Col. 6, lines 37-38- thus the scanned data is stored using the USB device 481**) (emphasis original).

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However, it is respectfully submitted that Chen and Iwaj, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, do not teach or suggest all of the features as presently recited in independent claim 43, for at least the following reasons.

Referring to FIG. 1 and col. 6, lines 37-38 of Chen as relied upon by the Examiner, Chen illustrates and describes a “paperless image fax-scanning apparatus 400” that “connects with” a “USB device 481” and a “printer 482” to permit the user to either “print” the “fax data” or the “scanned data” through a printer, or “store the data” using the “USB device 481.” That is, Chen illustrates and describes that when the paperless image fax-scanning apparatus 400 “connects with” a separate “printer 482,” the “fax data” or the “scanned data” can be printed with the connected printer 482, not an “image forming device” having a “control unit” that is “coupled to a “printing unit” and “operable to control printing of data” that is “stored” in a “USB memory unit” such that “when the USB memory unit is attached to the USB input/output port,” the “control unit” is operable to “print data” that is “stored in the USB memory unit via the printing unit.” Applicants submit that Chen merely describes that “fax data” or “scanned data” from the “paperless image fax-scanning apparatus 400” can be send to a separate printer 482, not that the “USB memory unit” that is “attached to the USB input/output port” of the “control unit” is operable to “print data” that is “stored in the USB memory unit” via the “printing unit” of the “image forming device.” Applicants submit that the Chen does not teach, disclose, or suggest “print[ing] data” that is “stored in the USB memory unit” via the “printing unit” of the “image forming device” *anywhere*.

Still referring to FIG. 1 and col. 6, lines 37-38 of Chen as relied upon by the Examiner, Chen illustrates and describes that when the “paperless image fax-scanning apparatus 400” connects with the “USB device 481,” the “fax data” or the “scanned data” from the “paperless image fax-scanning apparatus 400” the can be “store[d]” in the “USB device 481.” That is, Chen merely illustrates and describes that the “fax data” or the “scanned data” from the “paperless image fax-scanning apparatus 400” is “store[d]” in the “USB device 481” when the apparatus 400 connects with the “USB device 481,” not that a “USB memory unit” is “attached to the USB input/output port” of the “control unit” is operable to “print data” that is “stored in the USB memory unit” via the “printing unit” of the “image forming device.” Applicants submit that

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the Chen does not teach, disclose, or suggest “print[ing] data” that is “stored in the USB memory unit” with the “printing unit” of the “image forming device” *anywhere*.

Therefore, Chen and Iwai, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, do not teach or suggest, among other things “wherein the control unit is coupled to the printing unit and operable to control printing of data stored in the USB memory unit such that when the USB memory unit is attached to the USB input/output port, the control unit is operable to print data stored in the USB memory unit via the printing unit” as presently recited in independent claim 43.

Since Chen and Iwai, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, do not teach or suggest all of the features as recited in claim 43, claim 43 is patentably distinguishable and deemed to be allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

Claims 44-51

Claims 44, 49, and 50 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

With regard to claims 45-48 and 51, it is requested that for at least the reasons that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 43, and therefore contain each of the features recited in claim 43, claims 45-48 and 51 are also patentable over Chen and Iwai, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

Claims 52-56

Applicants have canceled claims 52-56 without prejudice or disclaimer.

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Examiner's Response to Arguments

In the Remarks above, Applicants address the Examiner's Response to Arguments recited on pages 7-8 of the Office Action, as well as the rejections recited on pages 2-7 of the Office Action. Reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the above Remarks above is earnestly solicited.

In-Person Examiner Interview

Applicants conducted an in-person Examiner Interview on June 29, 2010. In the Interview Summary provided on the same date, the Examiner agreed that the amendments to claim 43, as discussed throughout, "appear to overcome the currently cited reference." Reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the Remarks above, as well as the remarks made in the June 29, 2010 Examiner Interview are earnestly solicited.

New Claim

Claim 57 has been newly added.

New independent claim 57 recites a third input/output port removably connectable to a portable storage unit which is selected from the group consisting of a memory stick (MS), a compact flash (CF) card, a secure digital (SD) memory card, a multimedia card (MMC), a smart media (SM) card, a universal serial bus (USB) memory card, and an xD-picture card.

Applicants respectfully submit that support for newly added claim 57 can be found, for example, in FIGS. 1A, 1B, 3, and 5, as well as corresponding portions of the detailed description, including paragraph [0060].

For at least the reason that new claim 57 depends from allowable independent claim 43, and therefore contains all of the features recited in independent claim 43, new claim 57 is patentably distinguishable from the prior art of record.

Consideration and allowance of new independent claim 57 is earnestly solicited.

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Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

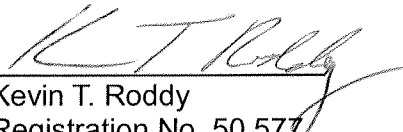
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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